

PARISH CALENDAR

Fourth Sunday
of Advent

December 18, 2022

Come and rescue us, Lord, with
your mighty power.



Saturday, December 17	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, December 18	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, December 19	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Tuesday, December 20	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, December 21	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Thursday, December 22	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, December 23	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Saturday, December 24		NO CONFESSIONS
	..... 6:00 p.m.	Christmas Ohana Mass
	..... 11:00 p.m.	Christmas Evening Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Isaiah: 52:7-10: God redeems Jerusalem and gives comfort to all people.

Hebrews: 1:1-6: In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways. . . through the prophets.”

John:1:1-18: “We all have partaken of this fullness: love following love.”

(Masks are optional)

We continue to Live Stream the Sunday Mass @ 9:00 a.m. @ <https://www.sritananakuli.org/livestream> or https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cg/

EXCHANGING GIFTS. . .

Christmas presents are gathering under trees. The opening of gifts opens hearts as well. Gifts are given in love, and they promote love in return. We love all year round, not just on Christmas Day. We may not give wrapped gifts every day of the year, but we love every day. We say it, show it, and feel it. At Christmas we will celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the human race. It is not Christmas every day, but God is good to us every day, showing love in many and marvelous ways.

A Christmas gift of love prompts a response—a hug, a kiss, a note of thanks, or a favor in return. The greatest Christmas gift also prompts a response—a desire to live in ways that please Christ.

St. Paul calls himself an apostle “set apart for the gospel of God,” the Gospel promised through the prophets in the Scriptures, the Gospel about God’s Son, “descended from David according to the flesh.” Throughout Advent, we have heard prophecies foretelling the birth of Jesus. They help us experience the full wonder of Christmas Day: that God took on flesh and was born into a human family descended from David. That is the Gospel, the good news. So great was that Gospel that Paul became its apostle.

And so did we. In all we say and do, we tell others how much the Christian faith means to us. It is the natural response to the greatest gift of all.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Religious Give

Thanks. A sister writes, "We remember the many people who believe in the Retirement Fund for Religious, thanking them in prayer for their great generosity and compassion." God bless you for donating to last week's special collection. Visit www.redreligious.org to learn how our gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

OUTREACH: As a Christmas gift for the our homeless brothers and sisters, the Pantry is seeking donations of **Manual Can Openers**, you can place them in the blue bin at the back of church (Waianae side of the church) we will distribute the can opener at our December 29th feeding.

WORD OF LIFE: "Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your fiends in here new journey of being a mother." Learn ten tips at www.respectlife.org/support-her . USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "10 Ways to Support Her When she's Unexpectedly Expeting"

WEEKLY READINGS

Dec 18 Sun: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is:35:1-6a, 10; Ps:146; Jam:5:7-10; Mt:11:2-11

Dec 19 Mon: Advent Weekday

Jgs:13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps:71: 3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk:1:5-25

Dec 20 Tue: Advent Weekday

Is:7:10-14; Ps:24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk:1:26-38

Dec 21 Wed: Advent Weekday

Sg:2:8-14; Ps:33:2-2, 11-12, 20-21; Lk:1:39-45

Dec 22 Thur: Advent Weekday

1 Sm:1:24-28; 1 Sm:2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk:1:46-56

Dec 23 Fri: Advent Weekday

Mal:3: 1-4, 23-24; Ps:25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14; Lk:1:57-66

Dec 24 Sat: Advent Weekday

2 Sm:7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps:89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Lk:1:67-79

GOD SIGNS . . .

For Christians, the most famous prophecy of Isaiah is this: "The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

Isaiah spoke these words to a king worried about the future of his dominion. God invited Ahaz to ask for a sign of favor, but Ahaz refused. In so many words, Ahaz did not want to put God to any trouble. Isaiah, exasperated, tells the king that God will give him a sign anyway. Whether or not Ahaz wants one, God will give a sign.

The sign Isaiah promises is a child born to a young woman. The child will be given a name that would carry a message to the king and his people: Emmanuel. God is with us.

When Matthew wrote about the birth of Jesus in the first chapter of his Gospel, he said it fulfilled this prophecy from Isaiah. Jesus is the sign that God is with us. The young woman, his mother Mary, conceived the child while remaining a virgin.

Where in the world do people not want to trouble God? How can you bring them a sign of comfort? No matter how impossible the situation might be, God is with us.

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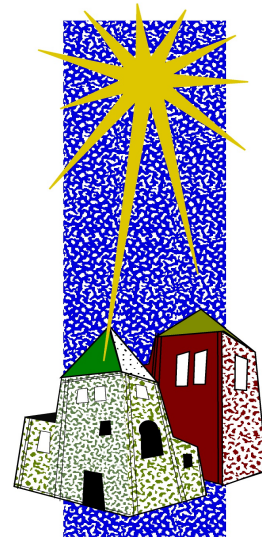
NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's gospel we hear of the coming of Emmanuel, which means "God is with." We celebrate three Advents: the birth of Christ, his Second Coming, and his presence in the world today. Our daily lives are attended by God's presence. In deed, "God is with us." The good News of Christ's Incarnation is that we are the sign, the "sacrament," of Christ's presence in the world. People are supposed to see us, see how we love one another, see how we treat the stranger among us, see how we give comfort to the poor and afflicted, and share the Good News with joy. They see how good stewards are the light of Christ. And there can be no possible response except to say: "God is here!" (International Catholic Stewardship Council)

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

You can still continue contribute to St. Rita during this time of Social - distancing by going to our web-site www.stritananakuli.org And click "On-line Giving" on the banner line. You can also send your Tithe/Donation via mail: St. Rita Catholic Church/ 89-318 Farrington Hwy. / Nanakuli, HI 96792



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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Anticipating Emmanuel

Loving Father and King of Glory,
you accept us with all of our flaws.
As we anticipate the nativity of our Lord,
we are reminded that we should
seek to model the humility
of Mary and Joseph
and obey God's will.
Help us find the serenity
to ready our hearts to welcome others,
as Mary and Joseph welcomed Jesus.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 18, 2022
Submitting to God's Will



Today's readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–24. In the second reading, St. Paul is referred to as “a slave of Christ Jesus.” The word *slave* to Paul means “one who is devoted to the service of another.” The apostle emulates what we are called to do and to become as Christians. In serving God, we submit to a duty that stems from our baptism.

Numerous works of art beautifully reflect Mary's yes at the annunciation. Today, we hear of St. Joseph's yes. When an angel appears to Joseph in a dream, telling him not to be afraid “to take Mary your wife into your home,” Joseph responds with action. “When Joseph awoke,” the

Gospel tells us, “he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took his wife into his home.” As another account of the nativity, this is a wonderful story to share with children and teenagers. Becoming the foster father of Jesus was not something that was done to Joseph; he accepted his role with eyes of faith.

This week pray for stronger faith to continue to ponder the mystery that is God-among-us. The Lord is here, and he is yet to come. Salvation is promised, and it is near. Joyful expectation, indeed. The second “O” antiphon is prayed today, moving us closer to Christmas: “O sacred Lord . . . Come . . . to set us free.”



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 19

O Flower of Jesse's Stem

In today's Gospel, we hear the angel tell Zechariah that his barren wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to the child John, who "will be great in the sight of the Lord." Take a moment today to ask God's blessing on all women who struggle to become pregnant, all who have difficult pregnancies, and those who will deliver a child this day. At a family meal, pray for parents, grandparents, foster parents, and all who work tirelessly to raise children. *Today's readings: Judges 13:2–7, 24–25a; Psalm 71:3–4a, 5–6ab; 16–17; Luke 1:5–25.*

Tuesday, December 20

O Key of David

Consider the "O" antiphon reference to Jesus as the key of David as the key to unlock our heavenly home. Today's Gospel reveals how Mary's words, "May it be done to me according to your word," gave her a role in salvation history. Before going to bed, read aloud the story of the annunciation from Luke as a way to joyfully anticipate Christmas. *Today's readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4ab, 5–6; Luke 1:26–38.*

Wednesday, December 21

St. Peter Canisius

Today's "O" antiphon prays: "O Radiant Dawn, / splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: / Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness / and the shadow of death." The life work of St. Peter Canisius, a sixteenth-century German Jesuit priest and educator, was much like the "radiant dawn." He was dedicated to leading people from the "darkness" of distorted Catholic beliefs to the "radiant light" of correct information and right practice. He created several catechisms, helping adults and children know the true faith. Read St. Paul's letter to Timothy from your Bible. The letter models the work of St. Peter Canisius and gives guidance for our lives. *Today's*

readings: Song of Songs 2:8–14 or Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Psalm 33:2–3, 11–12, 20–21; Luke 1:39–45.

Thursday, December 22

O King of All Nations

Jesus came as the Son of God so that we would know God the divine Father. Begin the day by reading the Magnificat from today's Gospel from Luke. Let Mary's praise of God seep into your heart. Praise God in what you plan and do today as you finish your preparations for Christmas. *Today's readings: Samuel 1:24–28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4–5, 6–7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46–56.*

Friday, December 23

St. John of Kanty

Today's "O" antiphon asks Emmanuel to "come and set us free." If possible, as a final preparation for Christmas, attend Mass. After receiving Communion, pray that you may become what you have received. Like St. John of Kanty, we are sometimes misunderstood, and are victims of injustice. But like St. John, we are so loved by God that we should trust in God's unconditional love. *Today's readings: Malachi 3:1–4, 23–24; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 8–9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57–66.*

Saturday, December 24

Daybreak

In a Christmas Eve homily, St. Oscar Romero focused on the poverty of spirit needed for a true celebration of Christmas: "No one can celebrate a genuine Christmas without being truly poor. The self-sufficient, the proud, those who, because they have everything, look down on others, those who have no need even of God—for them there will be no Christmas. Only . . . those who need someone to come on their behalf, will have that someone. That someone is God, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Without poverty of spirit there can be no abundance of God" (published in *An Advent Sourcebook* [Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1988]). *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Luke 1:67–79.*



DIOCESE OF HONOLULU

RESPECT LIFE



You are God's gift to the world!

ABOUT US

WHO WE ARE

The Respect Life Office for the Diocese of Honolulu seeks to convert hearts and minds on a wide range of life issues including Abortion, Post-abortion Healing, Euthanasia, Chastity Education, Embryonic Stem Cell Research, Human Cloning, Capital Punishment, Ethical Vaccines, Fertility Issues and Artificial Contraception.

Diocesan Co-Directors: Dcn. Gary and Val Streff

WHY WILL WE

CONTINUE TO MARCH?

Even with the wonderful blessing of Roe v. Wade being overturned, which allows more freedom at the state level to enact pro-life laws, the necessary work to build a culture of life in the United States of America is not finished. Rather, it is focused differently. Sadly, the number of abortions annually are still well over 900,000 each year, and that number is expected to decrease only by roughly 200,000 each year in a post-Roe America.



MASS & ADORATION

Thursday, January 19, 6PM
Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa
Mass and Holy Hour of
Adoration with Bishop Silva



MARCH

Friday, January 20, 3-6PM
State Capitol, Honolulu
March for Life March
Check for details on your island



NOVENA

January 19 - 27
9 Days for Life
Pray to Protect Human Life
9DaysForLife.com

#MarchForLife
#WhyWeMarch

WWW.CATHOLICHAWAII.ORG/DIOCESAN-OFFICES/RESPECT-LIFE

MASS SCHEDULE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND



Saturday, December 24TH

6:00 p.m.	Christmas Ohana Mass
11:00 p.m.	Christmas Evening Mass (Midnight)

Sunday, December 25th

8:00 a.m.	Christmas Mass (Dawn)
10:00 a.m.	Christmas Mass (Day)

NO SUNDAY 5 P. M. MASS

Saturday, December 31ST

5:00 p.m.	Mass (Vigil Mass for Sunday)
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Sunday, January 1ST

8:00 a.m.	Mass
10:00 a.m.	Mass



NO SUNDAY 5 P. M. MASS

**THE ABOVE MASS SCHEDULE IS ONLY FOR THE CHRISTMAS/NEW
YEAR'S WEEKEND.**

**(WE WILL RESUME THE REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE, WEEKEND
OF JANUARY 7-8, 2023(SAT @ 5 PM, SUN 7 & 9 AM & 5 PM)**